


DAWLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Library

A N N U A L R E P O R T



of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

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Council Offices,
King Street,
DAWLEY,
Shropshire.

September 1965.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health - Kenneth Cartwright, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectors - Clifford G. Rhodes, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.
John W. Good, M.A.P.H.I.

Shorthand/Typist/Clerk - Miss Ann Woolley

Clerk/Typist - Miss Margaret Lessells

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DAWLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report for the Medical Officer of Health for
the year ending 31st December, 1964

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present the report of the health of your district for the year 1964.

The population of Dawley continues to increase gradually. Mid 1964 the population was estimated to be 10,480 compared with 10,220 in 1963. No doubt the increase is small when compared with the expected increase over the next two decades.

The birth rate when standardised is slightly above the national average, 19.71 for Dawley, 18.4 for the nation as a whole.

The death rate for the area is again slightly above the national average, when standardised 12.21 showing a slight fall compared with last year's figure of 12.42.

With the introduction of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act in May, 1963 the work of the Public Health Department continues to expand and each year, as new legislation is introduced, the work of the Public Health Inspector increases. At the time of publication, all registration forms had been collected from the shops affected (not all shops came under this Act) and recommendations as to structural alterations to comply with the Act have been recommended in several cases.

Meat inspection and slaughtering continues and we are fortunate in that both our Public Health Inspectors are well qualified to maintain a high standard of meat inspection.

During June, when the typhoid epidemic was very fresh in everyone's memory, certain cans of corned beef and tongue were suspect. At this time, every shop in the Dawley Urban District was visited and any suspect cans were withdrawn. All Dawley shopkeepers readily co-operated.

Dawley still has a relatively long housing list and there is a shortage of Council accommodation. Several families are living in sub-standard accommodation and in some isolated cases conditions are appalling. Slum clearance and rehousing were delayed whilst plans for the New Town were being drawn up. Now that the Master Plan has been published it is to be hoped that Dawley Urban District Council will be able to proceed with Council estates and greatly reduce the number of people waiting to be rehoused.

At one time complaints were received about the sewage effluent. Overhaulage and minor repairs at the sewage works have improved things considerably and at present sewage effluent appears much more satisfactory.

My thanks are due to the Staff of Dawley Urban District Council for their help in compiling this report and also to the County Medical Officer of Health for allowing me to publish the information in Section II.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant,

Kenneth Cartwright,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

GENERAL AND LOCAL STATISTICS 1964.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate	18.4
Still Birth Rate	16.3
Infant Mortality Rate	20.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	13.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate	28.2
Death Rate	11.3

VITAL STATISTICS FOR COUNTY OF SALOP.

Birth Rate (Standardised)	18.9
Still Birth Rate	17.8
Infant Mortality Rate	18.6
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	12.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate	28.5
Death Rate (Standardised)	11.6
Early Neo-Natal	10.9

STATISTICS FOR DAWLEY URBAN DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	3,259
Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid 1964)	10,480
No. of inhabitable houses (at 31.12.64)	3,345
Rateable Value of the District (at 1.4.64)	£282,802
Estimated Product of 1d Rate	£1,159

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Legit.</u>	<u>Illegit.</u>
Male	112	105	7
Female	113	109	4
	225	214	11

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Legit.</u>	<u>Illegit.</u>
Male	3	3	-
Female	1	1	-
	4	4	-

Percentage of illegitimate live births	4.9
Live births per 1,000 population	21.7
Area comparability factor	0.9
Crude birth rate	21.7
Standardised birth rate	19.5
Still birth rate	17.5

Deaths of Infants

Under one year of age	= 7
Infant mortality	= 31.1 per 1,000 Live Births
Under four weeks of age	= 4
Neo-Natal mortality	= 17.8 per 1,000 Live Births
Under one week of age	= 8
Perinatal mortality	= 39.3 per 1,000 live and still births.

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	100	59	41

Death rate per 1,000 population	= 9.54
Comparability factor	= 1.28
Standardised death rate	= 12.2

Population

The Registrar General's estimated figure of the population in the Urban District for 30th June, 1964 was 10,480. This was 260 more than the estimated figure in June, 1963, 10,220.

Births

The live births numbered 225 which gave a crude birth rate of 21.7. When the area comparability factor was applied this gave a standardised rate of 19.5 above the National Birth Rate of 18.4.

Still Births

The number of still births was 4, giving a still birth rate of 17.5 compared with the National figure of 16.3.

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths under one year of age was 7. This gives an infant mortality rate of 31.1, compared with the National figure of 20.0.

Deaths

The number of deaths in the district was 100. This is the corresponding figure for last year. The Crude Death Rate is 9.54 which when standardised gives a figure of 12.2 compared with the National Death Rate of 11.3.

SECTION II

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

These services are provided by the County Council under the authority of the National Health Service, Act 1946 Sec. 22 to 29.

Care of Mothers and Young Children

An infant welfare clinic is situated in Doseley Road, Dawley. This is a modern clinic and is equipped for Dental Treatment.

Infant welfare clinic is all day Tuesday.

Dentist is in attendance all day Tuesday.

Speech Therapist is in attendance every Thursday afternoon.

Immunization sessions are held first Wednesday morning of every month.

Toddlers clinic for three-year olds is held the third Thursday morning every month, the dental hygienist is in attendance at these sessions.

Audiology clinics are held frequently, but the times for these are variable.

Relaxation classes are held every second and fourth Wednesday afternoon.

Chiropodist not in attendance at the clinic but attends Old Folks Rest Room weekly.

Welfare foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil, Vitamins) are also sold at the clinic on Tuesday.

In addition the clinic is used for Mothers Club and First Aid and Home Nursing lectures.

In the Dawley Area there are:

Two full-time Health Visitors and also two full-time nursing midwives, and 1 Relief District Nurse. The midwives undertake both midwifery and District Nursing duties.

The Moral Welfare Officer concerned with the care of unmarried mothers and illegitimate children is:

Mrs. C.V. Gwynne-Jones, 25-26 Talbot Chambers,
Market Street, Shrewsbury. Telephone: Shrewsbury 4900.

Vaccination and Immunization

This is carried out by both County Council Medical Officers and General Practitioners. It is offered to pre-school children and school children against Diptheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus, Smallpox and Poliomyelitis.

The table below shows the number of persons taking advantage of the facilities offered.

Primary and re-vaccination against Smallpox.

Under 2 years of age	145
2 - 4 years of age	27
5 - 14 years of age	12
15 years and over	9
TOTAL	<u>193</u>

Primary Diptheria Immunization

Under 1 year	105
Between 1 and 5 years	101
Between 5 and 15 years	9
TOTAL	<u>215</u>

Reinforcing Doses	282
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Primary Whooping Cough

Under 1 year	104
Between 1 and 5 years	95
Between 5 and 15 years	0
TOTAL	<u>199</u>

Primary Tetanus Immunization

Under 1 year	105
Between 1 and 4 years	105
Between 4 and 15 years	57
TOTAL	<u>267</u>

Reinforcing Doses	251
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Poliomyelitis

Under 1 year	46
Between 1 and 5 years	180
Between 5 and 14 years	28
15 and over	11
	<u>265</u>

Reinforcing Doses	<u>120</u>
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Vaccination against Tuberculosis is also offered to school children aged thirteen years and this is carried out as a routine in the secondary schools with parents' consent.

82 consent forms were received for this area, 7 of them were refusals. Of the remaining 75, 70 were skin tested; 61 out of the 70 were given B.C.G. vaccinations.

Ambulance Service

This is provided by the County Council. The Central Ambulance Station is at Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, telephone Shrewsbury 6331. Ambulances for this area are provided by mainly the Donnington Depot and also occasionally by Shifnal and Much Wenlock Depots.

Home Help Services

These again are provided by the County and they operate through branch offices.

Dawley is served through the Wellington Branch Office which is open Monday - Thursday mornings 10.0 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Friday 10.0 a.m. - 12.30p.m. 2 p.m. - 4.45 p.m.

Laboratory Facilities

We record our thanks to Dr. Jones and his staff of the Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Salop Infirmary for their help and advice throughout the year. The Laboratory is constantly used for bacteriological examination of water, milk and ice cream.

Chemical analysis of water samples are made by the Harper Adams College.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care

(a) Several articles of nursing equipment, such as air rings bed pans, feeding cups etc. are on loan to patients being nursed at home. These can be obtained from the County via the district nurses.

(b) Convalescence for people not requiring special nursing care or medical care but still recovering from illness can be arranged. The County makes frequent use of the Lady Forrester's Home, Llandudno for this purpose.

(c) Mental Health. The County Council are responsible for supervision in their own houses of the mentally handicapped persons. This is done mainly through the Mental Welfare Officer and the Health Visitor. They also assist General Practitioners to secure hospital admission for the mentally ill.

(d) Treatment of Tuberculosis is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at chest clinics and sanatoria, but the prevention and the after care is shared between local authority and Hospital Board. Health visitors follow up cases and do most of the contact tracing. Open air shelters can be provided by the County when required. Extra nourishment may be provided. The local authority and regional board combine in arranging amenities for chest X-ray.

Hospital Service

In the area, mainly because of geographical position patients use facilities offered by the Shrewsbury Group Management Committee and Wolverhampton Group Management Committee. Both these committees are part of Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. As a result of this use is made of Outpatients Department at the Wrekin Hospital and Shifnal Hospital.

SECTION III

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Water Supplies

The water supply is in pipes under pressure from the East Shropshire Water Board borewells at Shifnal and has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

There are, however, eight dwellings which are not so supplied and which are dependent upon a shallow spring (6 houses) and a shallow well (2 houses), with one exception, the private sources are sufficient in quantity but are not of good quality.

The shallow spring has been chlorinated from time to time to kill organic life in the holding tank but the bacteriological samples from this source are always unsatisfactory. All users are aware of the need to sterilize the water before drinking it.

At the time of printing, negotiations are taking place with representatives of the East Shropshire Water Board to provide main water supply via a stand pipe to six of the dwellings concerned.

Bacteriological samples of water are taken monthly.

A total number of 24 were taken from the public main supplies and these were found to be satisfactory. There were 7 taken from wells supply and these were found to be unsatisfactory.

One chemical sample was taken from the public mains supply in November 1963 and this was satisfactory. This showed a fluoride content to be approximately 0.47 parts per million.

The water is not plumbo-solvent. The number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| (1) Direct to the houses | 3,098 |
| representing a population of | 9,369 |
| (2) By means of standpipes | 300 |
| representing a population of approx. | 907 |

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The existing sewage works and plant are maintained in a satisfactory condition, but on occasions the effluent is not highly satisfactory. This is due to the fact that the disposal works has a design capacity for six times the dry weather flow for a population of 7,000. As the population is now 10,000 this means that the plant is overloaded.

The Development Corporation are building a new sewage works to cater for the whole of the New Town area and it is hoped to be working in part within the next three years.

Some of the old sewers are brick barrels and these tend to harbour rats. Every effort is made to stop off points of ingress and egress when these are found.

There are 3,372 houses in the district, 2,670 of these are connected to sewage disposal works owned by the local authority. 273 are connected to a satisfactory private sewage disposal treatment plant. 429 dwellings which represent 11.4% are without satisfactory sewerage.

There are two dwellings connected to sewage disposal works owned by the district council.

These 429 houses use chemical, pail, earth and privy closets. The local authority collect night soil at these dwellings an average of once **per** week for pails.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Collections are made weekly from all domestic premises. In cases of shops and other traders, collections may be made more frequently and a nominal charge is made for these. Where dustbins are returned to by the refuse collection men promotes lively discussion, but at present dustbins are being returned to whence they came, to most people's satisfaction.

The method of tipping in operation in the district is the controlled method of tipping and we are fortunate in having a large, easily accessible tip at our disposal at the Doseley Quarries in Dawley. Ever Ready factory are allowed to tip on this area. They are charged for every truck load and the levelling is done by Council workmen.

Factories and their Control

These are governed by the Factories Act, 1961.

Part I of the Act deals with inspections for purposes of provision as to health.

There are no factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the local authority. There are 31 in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority. Of these 31, 89 inspections were made and 11 defects found, but no prosecutions arose.

<u>Details</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		<u>Prosecution</u>
			<u>To H.M.</u>	<u>By H.M.</u>	
Want of Cleanliness	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective Floor Drainage	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	11	11	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not Separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Offences Against Act	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Sections 133 and 134 regarding outwork did not apply.

Rodent Control

Dawley Urban District Council calls upon the services of rodent operatives employed by the North East Salop Joint Pest Control Committee and pays a proportion of the expenses of this committee.

Certain business premises in the area are under contract for rodent control by the operatives. In addition to this their services were required on 66 occasions during the year because of complaints received by the Public Health Department.

The operatives use warfarin and fluoracetamide poisons to good effect. These are at present considered to be the most effective of the rat poisons.

SECTION IV

HOUSING STATISTICS

Total number of permanent dwellings in the district 3,345

Number of dwellings owned by the local authority 1,322

Housing Acts, 1957 and 1961

Number of houses demolished in clearance areas during the year 1964. 12

Houses demolished as a result of formal and informal procedure under section 16 and section 17(1) 19

Number of unfit houses closed under sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1961. 59

Number of unfit houses made fit (under section 16 by owner) 2

Number of houses purchased by agreement in clearance areas. 17

Number of unfit houses rendered fit by informal action under the Public Health Act. 1

Estimated number of houses still unfit for human habitation:-

(1) to be dealt with by demolition	<u>344</u>
(2) to be dealt with by reconditioning	<u>725</u>

Overcrowding

The number of overcrowded families rehoused during the year was 5. The number of houses overcrowded is not known.

Houses erected during the year 1964:

By the local authority	16 for slum clearance
	20 for other purposes
Private enterprise	Nil

Number of houses built post-war i.e. 1st April 1945 - 31st Dec. 1964

By local authority	891 + 36 = 927
By private enterprise	= 602

Building programme for 1965:

25 dwellings for slum clearance
25 for other purposes

Number of applicants on housing list at end of year = 237

No improvement grants were made under the 1949 Housing Act and no applications were received.

There were two applications received for an improvement grant under section 4 of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Act, 1961. Neither of these were approved.

The total number of housing applications at the end of 1964 was 237, quite a considerable housing list. But now that the Master Plan has been drawn up and with the likelihood of the formation of the new Urban District Council occurring in the near future, development and building will surely be speeded up. It is to be hoped that one day the housing list will be negligible and slum clearance will be completed.

The World Health Organisation defines health as a state of positive, mental, physical and social well-being, hence environment plays a very important part in positive health. Thus improvement in general housing standards is not only good for the individual, but is good for the health and well-being of the whole community.

SECTION V

FOOD SUPPLY, INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

Dawley, for the purposes of legislation, is not a food and drug authority, since food sampling, especially on a formal scale is done by the County Public Health Inspectors. Our own Public Health Inspectors carry out legislative procedure under the 1955 Food and Drugs Act and Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960. They inspect premises where food is sold and also premises concerned with manufacture of food to ensure that a safe and reliable standard of hygiene is practised. Samples of ice cream are taken regularly for bacteriological examination and our Public Health Inspectors can during the course of inspection sample food if the need arises and inform the County Health Department.

Mobile food shops and vans carrying food are, whenever possible, inspected when they are in the district.

The food samples taken during 1964 were as follows:-

14 samples of ice cream were taken by our own Public Health Inspectors for the purpose of bacteriological examination. These proved to be satisfactory, 11 Grade I and 3 Grade II.

The following samples were obtained by the County Public Health Inspectors under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

<u>Food</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Result</u>
Beverage	1	Satisfactory
Dehydrated Mixed Vegetables	1	Satisfactory
Flake Tapioca	2	1 sample unsatisfactory
Cochineal	1	Satisfactory
Linctus Codeine	1	Satisfactory
Calamine Lotion B.P.	1	Satisfactory
Aquadine	1	Satisfactory
Fresh Peaches	1	Satisfactory
Blancmange Powder	1	Satisfactory
Demerara Sugar	1	Satisfactory
Lemon Cheese	1	Satisfactory
Wine Cocktail	1	Satisfactory
Minced Beef	1	Satisfactory

<u>Milk</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>
T.T. Pasteurised	3
C.I. Pasteurised	4
T.T. Farm Bottled	4
T.T.C.I. Farm Bottled	4
Sterilised	7
Pasteurised	4
T.T. Bottled	1
T.T.C.I. Pasteurised	1
Bulk Milk ex Farm	5
Untreated Mixed	5
	<u>38</u>

All the above samples proved satisfactory.

In the one case of the unsatisfactory Tapioca sample, the firm concerned were informed and they took appropriate action. Following this a further formal sample was taken and this proved to be satisfactory.

Milk samples obtained under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1960.

	<u>No. of Samples Obtained</u>	<u>Passed Phosphatase Test</u>	<u>Methylene Blue Test</u>	<u>Passed Turbidity Test</u>
			<u>Passed</u> <u>Failed</u>	
Pasteurised	4	4	4 -	-
T.T. Pasteurised	14	14	12 2	-
T.T.C.I. Past.	6	6	6 -	-
T.T. Bottled	2	-	2 -	-
T.T.C.I. Fm. Bt.	6	-	4 2	-
Sterilised	4	-	- -	4
T.T. Farm Bottled	2	-	1 1	-
T.T.U.C.I. Fm. Bt.	1	1	1 -	-
	<u>39</u>			

In the cases of the failed Methylene Blue Tests the parties concerned were interviewed by the County Public Health Inspectors. Further samples were taken and these proved to be satisfactory.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

This legislation, which has long been required, came into operation in May, 1964. Registration forms for the purposes of this Act have been distributed and the majority have been returned and the premises concerned inspected. There are shops in the area which do not qualify for registration under the above Act. The remainder have been inspected, but unfortunately, because of staff shortage, we have been unable to keep up to date with our follow-up inspections. This is hoped to be remedied in the near future.

The number of premises now registered under this Act is 77.

SECTION VI

Infectious Diseases

The total number of notifications received during the year was 296. This is much higher than in 1963 when the figure was 88. The reason for the increase was because of an outbreak of measles; these measles epidemics tend to occur at two-yearly intervals. It is hoped that in the near future vaccination against this disease will become standardised procedure, in a similar fashion to Tetanus, Diphtheria etc.

<u>Notifications</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Scarlet Fever	16	5
Measles	239	27
Whooping Cough	3	41
Acute Pneumonia	10	12
Food Poisoning	0	0
T.B. Respiratory	1	3
T.B. Non Respiratory	0	1
Erysipelas	1	0
Meningococcal Infection	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0

There were no cases of Typhoid or Paratyphoid reported.

There were no cases of Diphtheria reported.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis reported.

Tuberculosis

There was one case of Respiratory T.B. reported during the year. There were no deaths from this form of disease.

The number of cases on the register totalled 33 -

25 Respiratory
8 Non Respiratory

APPENDIX

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, other	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	6
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	4
Coronary Disease, Angina	13	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	1
Other Heart Disease	11	8
Other Circulatory Disease	-	3
Pneumonia	2	1
Bronchitis	6	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1
Congenital Malformations	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	5	4
All Other Accidents	1	-
Suicide	-	1
<u>Total all causes</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>41</u>

